

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air what amounts to a partisan commercial just days before this year's presidential election is appalling and a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line or management's private agendas and less of what we need for our democracy. At a time when media already focuses excessively on spin and fails to focus on real issues, it's inexcusable that one-sided political motives are allowed to parade on public airwaves as far and balanced reporting.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard!

Thank you.